

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph starting on page 7, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In the illustrated embodiment, the package 10 includes at least one tube 14 having a lumen 16 (best shown in Figure 2) that extends between opposing ends 18 and 21. The tube 14 is formed as a coil assembly 23. In order to facilitate the attachment of clips, connectors, adapters or components commonly used for the retention and assembly of other surgical devices and peripheral components, the coil assembly 23 may be carried on a backing card 25 with component retention capabilities. For example, the backing card 25 may be provided with retaining mechanisms 26 configured to retain such components. For instance, the retaining mechanisms 26 may comprise tongue-and-groove portions cut out of the backing card 25 itself. As a further example, a retention accessory 27 may alternatively or additionally be coupled to end 18 and/or 21 of the tube 14 to facilitate the attachment of such components. It is to be expressly understood that a backing card 25 and a retention accessory 27 may be used independently of, or in combination with, each other.

Please replace paragraph starting on page 9, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

In the plan view of Figure 57 and cross section view of Figure 68, the coil assembly 23 is illustrated in a spiral configuration wherein the tube 14 is coiled in a single plane 50, as shown in Figure 6. In this configuration, the tube 14 is provided with multiple coils 52, 54, and 56, which increase in diameter outwardly from the end 21 to the end 18. With this configuration, the thermal bonds 30 are formed between adjacent coils such as between the coils 52 and 54 and between the coils 54 and 56. These bonds 30 maintain the coils 52, 54, and 56 in a fixed relationship so that they cannot be separated or peeled.

Please replace paragraph starting on page 9, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

The bonds 30 between the coils 52, 54 and 56, as well as the bonds 32, 34, and 36, can be formed with a variety of techniques as shown in Figure 5. Hot air from a nozzle 58 can be directed at the interface between adjacent coils, for example. As an alternative, the thermal bonds can be formed using a heating element, which might include a heating probe 61 or heating plate, for example. As a further alternative, a laser 63 might be used to form the thermal bonds 30, 32, 34, and 36.

Please replace paragraph starting on page 10, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The embodiment of Figures 79 and 810 is similar to that of Figures 57 and 68 in that the coils 52, 54, and 56 are spiraled in the single plane 50. In this case, however, the thermal bonds are not formed directly between the coils 52, 54, and 56, but are individually formed between each coil and a pair of bridges 65 and 67. The bridges 65, 67 in this case are merely pieces of plastic formed of a material common to the tube 14 and laid along a side of the coils 52, 54, and 56. One of thermal bonds 30 can be formed at the junction of each of the coils 52, 54, and 56 with the bridges 65 and 67. A further embodiment of a coil assembly 23 is illustrated in Figures 9 and 10. As shown in Figures 9 and 10, a tube 14 extends from one end 18 to an opposite end 21 to form stacked coils 70, 72, 74, each with an associated plane 76, 78, 81, respectively.

Please replace paragraph starting on page 10, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

A further configuration of the coil assembly 23 is illustrated in the plan view of Figure 11 and cross section view of Figure 12. This assembly 23 is of particular advantage when more than one surgical device, such as a guidewire and a catheter, are to be packaged together. This is often the case when a particular guidewire is to be used with a particular catheter. In the illustrated embodiment, two separate package tubes are provided, each having a pair of ends. Thus, the tube 14, with its ends 18 and 21, is illustrated in Figure 11 in a first spiral and single plane 50. In addition, a second tube 85, having ends 87 and 90, is illustrated in a second spiral and second plane 92. In the illustrated embodiment, the outer ends 18 and 87 of the tubes 14 and 85 respectively, are positioned on opposite sides of the coil assembly 23.